

**Abstract**

A linear or bus optical network comprising first and second end nodes and a plurality of primary nodes disposed, in use, between the end nodes, wherein each end node is connected to its nearest neighbouring primary node and its 2<sup>nd</sup> nearest neighbouring primary node, and wherein each primary node is connected to its 2<sup>nd</sup> nearest neighbouring primary or end node on either side, or, where one of its nearest neighbouring nodes is one of the end nodes, to said one end node and to its 2<sup>nd</sup> nearest neighbouring primary or end node on the other side.

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